

Message Text

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USMTN

PASS ELECTRONICALLY STARKEY (STR) AND HATHAWAY/OYLOE
(USDA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: MTN SUBGROUP MEAT - MARCH 7-8 MEETING

1. SUMMARY. THE MTN SUBGROUP MEAT HELD ITS SECOND MEETING IN 1978 ON MARCH 7 AND 8. THE MEETING CONSISTED OF A BUSINESSLIKE REVIEW OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT REGARDING MEAT. MANY POINTS ON THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED BUT THERE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STILL CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT ON THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE DRAFT PROPOSAL. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT OF THE ARTICLE BY ARTICLE REVIEW OF GENERAL PROVISIONS, WORKING HYPOTHESIS, REV. 2 (MTN/ME/W/24/REV. 2):

3. PREAMBLE: EC DELEGATE (MARMULLA) SAID LANGUAGE OF TEXT, NOTABLY FIRST PARAGRAPH, TENDED EMPHASIZE PAST UNCERTAINTIES OF MEAT TRADE AND FELT LONG-TERM STABILIZATION OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED. NEW ZEALAND DEL (FARNON) RESPONDED NEED FOR MEAT ARRANGEMENT WAS RESULT OF PAST SERIOUS DISTURBANCES AND CONCEPT SHOULD BE RETAINED. US DEL (KOENIG) AGREED WITH SPIRIT OF PREAMBLE EXCEPT FOR PARA 3 WHICH PREJUDGED ADOPTION OF CONCERTED DISCIPLINES. NEW ZEALAND, HOWEVER, FELT CONCERTED ACTION POINTED TO NEED FOR COORDINATED ACTION AND THUS WAS ACCEPTABLE.

4. ARTICLE I - OBJECTIVES: US SAID TEXT SHOULD BE MORE PRECISE AND POINTED OUT THAT TERM "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF WORLD MEAT MARKETS WAS REDUNDANT. ARGENTINA (RAIMONDI) RESPONDED THAT WORLD MEAT TRADE WAS COMPARTMENTALIZED AND WOULD BE INTERNATIONALIZED WHEN ALL COUNTRIES HAVE ACCESS TO ALL MARKETS. (IN ARGENTINE PARLANCE "INTERNATIONALIZATION" MEANS ACCESS TO MARKETS FROM WHICH ARGENTINE BEEF EXCLUDED DUE TO FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.) EC AGREED, AND OBJECTED TO US SUGGESTION THAT TERM "ACCESS" BE SUBSTITUTED. CANADA (GIFFORD) ALSO THOUGHT TEXT SHOULD BE MORE PRECISE AND SUGGESTED A SHORT LIST OF OBJECTIVES TO INCLUDE: COLLECTION AND REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON TRADE, MONITORING OF TRADE, IMPROVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND EXAMINATION OF PROBLEMS AND IDENTIFICATION OF SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE MARKET INSTABILITY. AUSTRALIA (FOGARTY) SUGGESTED LIST OF OBJECTIVES SHOULD INCLUDE GREATER TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND ARRANGEMENTS ALLOWING LDC'S MORE PARTICIPATION IN TRADE. NEW ZEALAND QUESTIONED WHETHER AN EXPANSION OF LDC SHARES OF TRADE (PARA 2) WAS A SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF TOKYO DECLARATION. ARGENTINA INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN LDC'S WOULD TAKE A LARGER PORTION OF THE INCREASED TRADE AND STRESSED THAT ANY STATEMENT WHICH DID NOT GO BEYOND TOKYO DECLARATION WAS MEANINGLESS. THE SUBGROUP FELT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DRAFT THE OBJECTIVES AND PREAMBLE LATER TO REFLECT THE CONTENTS OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

5. ARTICLE II - PRODUCT COVERAGE: MOST DELEGATIONS (EC, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND ARGENTINA WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT DELETION OF ALL SQUARE BRACKETS AND THUS INCLUDE IN AGREEMENT ALL PRODUCTS IN BOVINE SECTOR, INCLUDING LIVE ANIMALS. IN RESPONSE TO US SUGGESTION THAT PRODUCT COVERAGE INCLUDE ONLY BOVINE MEAT (EXCLUDING OFFALS AND PROCESSED BEEF) SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (EC, HUNGARY,

AND POLAND) SAID THEY WOULD INSIST ON LIVE CATTLE BEING INCLUDED. US REITERATED ITS VIEW RE REGIONAL NATURE OF TRADE BUT SUGGESTED THAT THIS POINT NOT BE BELABORED AT THIS TIME. IT WAS AGREED TO DROP THE SQUARE BRACKETS WITH US RESERVATIONS.

6. ARTICLE III - INFORMATION AND MARKET MONITORING:
PARA 2 WAS REVISED BASED ON A CANADIAN PROPOSAL WHICH MODIFIED THE SYNTAX MORE THAN THE SUBSTANCE. THE US STATED ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT BRACKETED COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON "CARRYING OUT BILATERAL AND PLURILATERAL COMMITMENTS" AND EFFECT SUCH COMMITMENTS WOULD HAVE ON COUNTRIES' GATT OBLIGATIONS. EC, NEW ZEALAND AND ARGENTINA INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS LANGUAGE BE RETAINED (IN BRACKETS) SINCE, THEY SAID, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IT IS A QUESTION OF PROVIDING INFORMATION AND NOT ONE
OF PASSING JUDGMENT ON COMMITMENTS.

7. ARTICLE IV - COOPERATION: DISCUSSION OF THIS ARTICLE
CENTERED ON THE ABILITY OF THE COUNCIL TO MAKE RECOMMEN-
DATIONS OR SUGGEST SOLUTIONS. US SAID THAT A CONSENSUS
PROCEDURE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR REMEDIAL ACTION TO TAKE
PLACE; AND THAT CONSENSUS MEANT UNANIMITY. US DEL ALSO
POINTED OUT THAT MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS WOULD NOT NECESSA-
RILY RESULT IN MULTILATERAL ACTIONS. US VIEWS RECEIVED
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SUPPORT FROM NEW ZEALAND WHO STATED COUNCIL RECOMMENDA-
TIONS MUST BE AGREED TO BY UNANIMOUS DECISION. ARGENTINA
SAID GATT TRADITION IN THESE MATTERS SHOULD PREVAIL,
BUT DID NOT INTERPRET CONSENSUS AS MEANING UNANIMOUS.
CANADIAN DEL PROPOSED THAT ARTICLE IV SHOULD INCLUDE
PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SAYING IT WOULD ADD
TO EFFECTIVENESS OF GATT ARTICLE XXII ON CONSULTATIONS.
US AND OTHERS DOUBTED USEFULNESS OF INCORPORATING
DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IN AGREEMENT. IN CONNECTION WITH
LAST BRACKETED SENTENCE OF PARA 3 US STATED IT COULD
NOT JOIN AN ARRANGEMENT THAT EVEN IMPLIED POSSIBILITY OF
TRADE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS ON PRODUCTION INPUTS IN MEAT
SECTOR. WITH APPROVAL OF OTHERS, INCLUDING EC, THE
SENTENCE WAS DELETED.

8. ARTICLE V (1) - HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES: ARGEN-
TINA POINTED TO ITS PROPOSAL IN MTN/ME/W/27, WHICH THE
CHAIRMAN AGREED TO INCLUDE IN BRACKETS IN THE NEW DRAFT,
AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE MEAT SECTOR INVOLVES SPECIAL
HEALTH PROBLEMS WHICH THE STANDARDS CODE CANNOT ADEQUATE-
LY COVER. THE US STATED THAT THE STANDARDS CODE PROVIDES
AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA.
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, AND CANADA TOOK THE SAME
VIEW. THE EC WAS SILENT. WHEN ASKED WHETHER IT WAS
ALSO PROPOSING, IN EFFECT, A DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURE
IN THIS AREA, ARGENTINA DID NOT GIVE A CLEAR RESPONSE.

9. ARTICLE V (2) - SAFEGUARDS: THE US AND AUSTRALIA
SUGGESTED THAT DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WAS PREMATURE
AND SHOULD AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE SAFEGUARD NEGOTIA-
TIONS. NEW ZEALAND HEDGED SAYING THAT IT WOULD NOT RULE
OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS IN

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MEAT AS ARGENTINA PROPOSED. NEW ZEALAND CONFESSED INCONSISTENCY ON THIS POINT WITH ITS POSITION IN THE DAIRY SUBGROUP. THE EC SUGGESTED THE ARGENTINE SAFEGUARD PROPOSAL BE INCLUDED IN THE REVISED DRAFT IN BRACKETS AND TAKEN UP AFTER SAFEGUARD GROUP'S DELIBERATION.

10. ARTICLE V (3) - CODE OF CONDUCT: AUSTRALIA ADVANCED A PROPOSAL (TO BE CIRCULATED IN WRITING SOON) FOR ONGOING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MEANINGFUL ACCESS FOR MEAT. NEW ZEALAND FIRMLY SUPPORTED THIS. CANADA FELT SUCH A COMMITMENT MIGHT BETTER BE EXPRESSED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MTN. THE EC AND THE CHAIRMAN (LUCQ) SAID IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE INSERTED IN THE "FINAL PROVISIONS" SECTION.

11. ARTICLE V (4) - EXPORT SUBSIDIES: AUSTRALIA MADE A STATEMENT EXPRESSING ITS GREAT CONCERN ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES IN AGRICULTURE AND ITS VIEW THAT THE MEAT COUNCIL SHOULD EXAMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES. AUSTRALIA POINTED OUT THAT THE MEAT SECTOR IS ONE IN WHICH SUBSIDIES ARE NOT YET ENDEMIC AND THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO MONITOR AND PREVENT THEIR ADVANCE. NEW ZEALAND AGREED. AUSTRALIA STATED IT WOULD PUT FORWARD A TEXT.

12. ARTICLE V (5) - DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: CANADA INDICATED THEY WOULD SUPPLY WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT DRAFT. EC STATED IT COULD ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE NEED FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES.

13. ARTICLE VI - JOINT DISCIPLINES: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, JOINED BY US, CALLED FOR DELETION OF JOINT DISCIPLINES PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE VI AS IT IS NOT A TECHNIQUE OF UNIVERSAL APPLICATION. EC SAID THEY PREFERRED NOT TO REPEAT THEMSELVES ON THIS MATTER BUT WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT IS INCONCEIVABLE FOR EC TO GRANT

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IMPROVED ACCESS WITHOUT RECEIVING ASSURANCES ON MARKET EVOLUTION AND IN PARTICULAR SUPPLY PRICES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM US ON RELATIONSHIP OF JOINT DISCIPLINES TO GENERAL MEAT ARRANGEMENT, EC SAID GENERAL COMMITMENTS

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CONTAINED IN MEAT ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENDURE IF JOINT
DISCIPLINES WERE TO EXPIRE AND IMPLIED THAT IF JOINT
DISCIPLINES WERE ABROGATED A COUNTRY COULD NOT CLAIM
COMPENSATION BUT WOULD BE RELEASED FROM THE OBLIGATIONS
ASSUMED UNDER JOINT DISCIPLINES. THE ARGENTINES ADDED
THAT ALL BILATERAL, PLURILATERAL, OR MULTILATERAL COMMIT-
MENTS ON MEAT SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ANY AGREE-
MENT. AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND STRONGLY OPPOSED
INCLUDING BILATERAL COMMITMENTS IN THE AGREEMENT IF
THEY WERE NOT FIRMLY BOUND IN THE GATT SCHEDULES. THE
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US CONCURRED WITH THIS VIEW. WITH REGARD TO ARTICLE VI

BIS, ARGENTINA PROPOSED LEAVING LANGUAGE IN BRACKETS
THOUGH FELT COMMITMENTS MADE BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS AND
NON-PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN AN INFORMATION
ANNEX. EC AGREED ON NEED FOR INCLUSION OF LATTER INFOR-
MATION AS ESSENTIAL PART OF INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER
ARTICLE III. THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL RE ARTICLE VI WILL
BE INCLUDED IN BRACKETS IN THE REVISED DRAFT.

14. ARTICLE VII - ADMINISTRATION AND ARTICLE VIII -
FINAL PROVISIONS: NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

15. NEXT MEETING: THE NEXT MEETING WAS TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2.

15. DRAFTED BY US DELEGATION. MCDONALD

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Message Attributes

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